

Hawaii MARINE

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Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III (center), commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Japan, congratulates Lt. Col. Justin M. Wisdom, former commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron 301 and current executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 24, after presenting him with the Navy's Chief of Operations 2004 Naval Aviation Safety Award.

Squadron receives CNO safety award

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Although decommissioned on June 3, former squadron members from Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301 reunited Aug. 4 to receive the Chief of Naval Operations 2004 Naval Aviation Safety Award. The prestigious safety award recognized the squadron's outstanding safety record and their achievements during 2004 while serving in the United States Marine Corps Forces Pacific, area of operation.

This award is not the first time that the squadron has received accolades from the CNO. Having been decommissioned twice in its squadron's history, during its first activation phase, HMT-301 received the CNO Safety Award five times and logged more than 100,000 class "A" mishap-free flight hours.

"I think this award is really a testament to the Marines' professionalism," said Lt. Col. Justin M. Wisdom, former commanding officer, HMT-301 Windwalkers, and current executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group 24. "It proves that they can be the smallest flying squadron but still be the highest in aircraft readiness, and maintain and operate an aging platform in a safe manner."

The selection process for this award is based on, but not limited to, class A and B aircraft flight, flight-related mishap rates. Class A and B are aircraft ground

mishaps that include day and night flight exposure, currency of safety survey, quality of mishap reports, days and number of aircraft embarked aboard ship, days and number of aircraft deployed away from home base and contributions to the Naval Aviation Safety Program. These contributions include timely reporting of hazards with recommendations for corrective actions; suggestions and recommendations for improvement of changes in personal survival equipment, aircraft equipment, ground support equipment, facilities and maintenance practices; submission of safety articles for publication; currency of safety surveys or culture workshops; or any other matter considered appropriate by the Aircraft Controlling Custodian, and an overall appraisal by the Aircraft Controlling Custodian.

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Japan, presented the award to the former squadron's commanding officer.

"As sad as it is to see the squadron being decommissioned, it's good to see us being recognized and going out on a positive note," said Wisdom, a Sacramento, Calif. native.

According to the safety records, throughout its 40 years of active service, HMT-301 has successfully logged more than 144,000 hours and has trained more than 2,800 pilots, crew chiefs and aircrew members.

Fire downrange



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

An AS32P-19A from Marine Corps Air Facility's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, manned by Sgt. Christopher Jones and Pfc. Brian Golden, pumps a blanket of water onto a smoldering fire at the range aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, as a CH-53D Sea Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 drops a bucket of sea water to help prevent a re-flash. Twenty-two personnel from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting responded to a call from the K-Bay Federal Fire Department, Aug. 6. Three Helicopters from HMH-463, assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 24, flew 17 hours in support of firefighting efforts. The blaze was successfully extinguished, and there was no damage to human life, animal life, or structures. The fire damaged approximately 75 acres on MCB Hawaii, all of which was within the Ulupau Crater area.

CSSG-3 continues road work in Asia

Lance Cpl. Karim D. Delgado
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

MARINE CORPS BASE TERNATE, BARANGAY SAPANG TERNATE, CAVITE, Philippines — More than 50 Marines deployed in support of Philippine Interoperability Exercise 2005 turned a dirt path into a durable gravel road during a bilateral relations project, recently.

Marines from Engineer Support Company (Reinforced), 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, built up the kilometer-long path leading to the Naval Reserve Command Training Center. Marines repaired existing water drainage systems and created new ones where necessary.

"The previous road was basically a mud path," said Sgt. Chris Eastman, project senior combat engineer, Combat Service Support Group 3, 3rd FSSG aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "After it rained, the mud would bounce up the water, and the large military vehicles would impress tracks into the road that served as water pockets, which kept the road from ever drying up."

The Marines laid Geo-textile matting, a thick, watertight compound, over the road before pouring the gravel to keep the mud from mulching with the gravel. The matting helps disperse the weight of vehicles on the road so the gravel does not shift easily after prolonged usage, Eastman explained.

The engineers also used more than 120 pounds of TNT to loosen the foundation of portions of the road where necessary.

"Using demolition as an aid to dig out the ditches provided a real-world opportunity for the combat engineers to perform an important part of their job," Eastman said. "It worked out exactly as we wanted it to, and it gave them a means to do a full-on construction project that included digging, demolition, and other aspects of construction that they may not be able to do back home."

Some Marines had the opportunity to operate earth-moving machinery they wouldn't use outside of deployments.

Philippine Interoperability Exercise 2005 took place in order to improve interoperability between U.S. and Philippine Marines and maintain relations with the Philippines.



Lance Cpl. Karim D. Delgado

Lance Cpl. Somphou Gi, combat engineer, Combat Service Support Group 3, places mud into a hole that houses two pounds of TNT during the Caynipa road project in the Philippines, recently. The TNT was placed in sub-level holes and compacted with mud to control the explosion and better destroy the remnants of the ordnance for safety reasons.

2/3 builds up quality base

Sgt. Robert M. Storm
Combat Correspondent

JALALABAD AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — In a combined effort to make Marines who are forward deployed as self-sufficient as possible, forward operating bases are improving the quality of life with the help of independent civilian contractors and workers from the local population.

The Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who are currently deployed to Afghanistan, are living in canvas tents and conducting daily patrols in scorching heat. Coming back to a camp and having clean areas to sleep and to take showers in are huge morale boosters for these Marines.

The base commander is keeping a watchful eye on the progress of the positive changes to his base.

"I see it as continuously improving the foxhole," said Army Lt. Col. Jeanne A. Arnold, base commander, Jalalabad Air Field. "We are building this base for seven hundred and fifty individuals with a surge capacity for up to one thousand."

There are three phases to camp improvements. During phase one, all facilities are considered temporary and are tents. In phase two, the tents are replaced with wooden structures and include more amenities such as a well for water. During phase

See BUILD, A-7

NEWS BRIEFS

Manana Housing Traffic Slow-Down During August 2005

Traffic on Acacia Road, in and out of the Manana Housing Area in Pearl City, will be reduced to one lane until Aug. 31, due to construction work near the Manana Housing Area gate. Residents should expect traffic delays through this area during morning and evening peak traffic hours.

Traffic to Base Housing Affected

Now through Sept. 2, and from Sept. 12 to 30, traffic along Harris Avenue will be affected by the installation of curbs, gutters and sidewalks. All work will be conducted Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No work will be done on holidays. For more information, contact Andrew Gasper, tenant relations manager at 257-1257, ext. 287.

The American Legion to Co-Host National Job Fair

The American Legion Job Fair, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor in support of Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program will take place at the Hawaii Convention Center, Hall III, 1801 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu. All active duty service members, reserve members, National Guard members, military spouses, and America's veterans are welcomed. The following is the schedule for the job fair:

- Friday: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 20: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 21: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Aug. 22: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 23: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hawaii Military COLA Survey Coming Monday

All military, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration uniform service personnel stationed in the state of Hawaii are encouraged to complete a military Cost of Living Allowance survey sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command until the end of September 2005. The Office of the Secretary of Defense requires Headquarters Pacific Command to conduct the survey once every three years to adjust COLA rates for Hawaii uniform service personnel. Service members will have the opportunity to complete the survey over the Internet. Accuracy in completing the survey is critical to the COLA determination process. The Living Pattern survey is available online through September at www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/hawaii. Point of contact at HQ USPACOM is Eddie Fowler at 477-1396 or e-mail eddie.fowler@pacom.mil.

HI 5¢ Redemption Site
HI 5¢ redemption services are available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m, every Friday, in the parking lot across from the PX Annex. For more information, call Jim Sibert, Base Recycling, at 257-4300.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters
The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the "Letters to the Editor" section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.
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Bldg. 216, Box 63002
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Child Protective Service 832-5300
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Business Management Hotline 257-3188
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Hawaii
MARINE

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Managing Editor
News Editor
Lifestyles Editor
Sports Editor
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Staff Writer
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Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Maj. Patricia Johnson
Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
Millie Perera
Kristin Herrick
Susana Choy
Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson
Pfc. Edward DeBree

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MarForPac changes base commanders

Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson retires after 37 years of service

Lance Cpl. J Ethan Hoaldrige
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Maj. Gen. John F. Goodman took command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, during a change of command ceremony on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 3. Maj. Gen. Goodman succeeded Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, who brought his 37 years of service in the Marine Corps to a close. The ceremony kicked off with the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific band bringing in two battalions of Marines that represent MarForPac bases and stations and MarForPac operating forces.

They marched onto the parade deck where combat Humvees, helicopters and artillery were on display. Once the battalions were assembled, the Marines performed a manual of arms that displayed their immediate response to orders and unity. Halfway through the ceremony, the commanding officers of the battalions, led by Col. Gary S. Supnick, marched forward and centered on Lt. Gen. Gregson to report for the last time. When the music was lowered and the echo of the drums faded away, Lt. Gen. Gregson was honored with a 15-gun salute. Visually symbolizing the change of command, Sgt. Maj. Lawrence E. Thompson, MarForPac sergeant major, brought the MarForPac colors to Lt. Gen. Gregson, who passed them on to Maj. Gen. Goodman. A 13-gun salute followed the passing of the colors in honor of Maj. Gen. Goodman. During his remarks, Maj. Gen. Goodman paused to reflect on Lt. Gen. Gregson's career and their relationship over the years. "Congratulations on your extraordi-



Sgt. Chad R. Kiehl
During a change of command, Sgt. Maj. Lawrence E. Thompson, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific sergeant major, brought the MarForPac colors to Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson (forefront), who passed them on to Maj. Gen. John F. Goodman. Maj. Gen. Goodman succeeded Lt. Gen. Gregson as commanding general of MarForPac during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 3.

Female boots available for order

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Female Marines now have an alternative to the large and cumbersome boots they have worn. Twenty-eight female-specific-sized boots are now available for special order. The boots were introduced to Headquarters Marine Corps in January 2005 and are available for special order through the Marine Corps exchanges or by phone. Three separate manufacturers are boosting their production of the boots in order to fill purchase requests as quickly as possible. As of July 1, the production of the boots has been further increased so that the boots will be shipped directly to exchanges. "It's about time. I don't know what took them so long to do this in the first place," exclaimed Cpl. Corinne Andersen, an

administrative clerk at Camp Smith. These boots meet the same standards of currently issued boots. They were introduced in order to reduce the number of foot injuries women receive while wearing boots designed for male feet. The boots were specially made using a mold of a female foot, which has a significantly narrower design. This allows the boot to better fit the more slender female foot. "This is such a relief. I have worn the same boots for about two years because I can't find the right size to replace them," said Andersen. Female Marines around Hawaii can still order these boots from the exchange; however, the exchange does not expect to receive a shipment for a while. "We may not ever receive a shipment," said Danilo Ramos, the military clothing specialist at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "It depends on how big

the demand is. If we don't have enough demand we won't get the supplies." For female Marines like Andersen, it's worth the wait or even the hassle of ordering them. "It's definitely worth the wait," said Andersen. These boots were proposed and approved at the Female Uniform Symposium in 2002. During this symposium, several other changes were made for female Marines to include female-specific combat utility uniforms, which are also available at Marine Corps exchanges. Female Marines on Hawaii who need to buy better-fitting boots will have to special order them from the exchange. The process can take up to three weeks. If the Marine needs a pair specially made for medical reasons, it can take up to six months. Female Marines interested in ordering these boots should contact the K-Bay exchange at 254-7573 or the Marine uniform store at (800) 368-4088.



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
The women's foot on the left shows how the average female foot is significantly smaller than the average males. Headquarters Marine Corps has come up with female-specific-sized boots now for sale at Marine Corps exchanges Corps wide. They can also be ordered over the phone.

Salutes

Returned from deployment

Capt. Young Choi, 27
Judge Advocate
Headquarters Company, Combat Service Support Group 3,
attached to Multi National Forces Iraq
Hometown: Albany, N.Y.
Deployment location/dates: U.S. Embassy Baghdad, Iraq/
Jan. 12 to July 12
Awards: Joint Service Commendation, National Defense
Service, Iraqi Campaign, Global War on Terrorism
Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Service, Medal, Sea Service
Deployment

Units wanting to submit information for "Salutes" should send
an e-mail to kristin@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.

Weekend weather outlook

Today

Day — Partly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy with rain; easterly winds, 10 to 20 mph

High — 86
Low — 76

Saturday

Day — Partly cloudy skies; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy, moderate rain on base and mountain side; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph

High — 86
Low — 75

Sunday

Day — Partly cloudy skies; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy with rain; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph

High — 87
Low — 76



Marines from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, practice different firing positions during live-fire training held at the R-9 Range aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 2.

Bravo Company, 1/3 trains newcomers

Story and Photos By
Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson
Combat Correspondent

“We’re just trying to go back to the basics,” said 2nd Lt. Michael B. Harmon, 3rd Platoon commander, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “I’d say about ninety percent of the Marines we have are straight out of the School of Infantry and have never been deployed, so we’re at the beginning skill level.”

Harmon said that the 1/3 Marines from Bravo Company were undergoing training aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, at the R-9 range where they took a “Quick-Kill” course. The course includes failure to stop drills, close-range enemy engagement, tactical speed reload, hammer fails (two shots in the chest and one to the head) and movement targets.

“I’ve done this training before and I think it’s very effective,” said Lance Cpl. Adam M. Dingman, squad leader, machinegun section, 1/3. “This type of training helps Marines get a lot better prepared. The Marines will also be able to shoot live rounds a lot quicker and more efficiently — which could save their life.”

Being able to send rounds downrange quickly is the best training the Marines can get, said Dingman, a Minneapolis, Minn. native. This training is especially important for the Marines who will be exposed to a close-quarters combat environment. It also helps the new Marines get acquainted with what they’ll be seeing in combat, she said.

“We want our Marines to be able to engage the enemy across the street or at close range,” said Harmon. “We’re deploying to Afghanistan, so this training is very important. We should be doing live-fire training at least once a week, but we’re also going to be doing various mountain warfare

Pfc. Nathan R. Ingles, rifleman, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Bravo Company, practices tactical reloads during live-fire training held at the R-9 range, Aug. 2.

and Military Operations in Urban Terrain as well as taking Security and Stabilization Operation courses before we deploy.”

Bravo Company also had classes in first aid, which consisted of the basic introduction to the IFAC first aid kit, conducting help on a combat casualty and how to report casualties.

“The medical part of the training is just as important as any of the other training we are doing,” said Harmon. “If a fellow Marine were to be injured while in combat, then we want our Marines to be prepared. In case there isn’t a corpsman around and they need some sort of medical attention, we can just depend on each other.” Another event of the training was when Brig. Gen. Christian B. Cowdrey, commanding general, 3rd Marine Division, came aboard MCB Hawaii and spoke with the 1/3 Marines about the importance of the training they were going through.

Brig. Gen. Cowdrey spoke about the similarities between being on a high school sports team and being in a combat unit, as a comparison so that the Marines could put the importance of the training into proper perspective.

“In both football practice and combat training, you continuously perform drills,” he began. “There has to be constant teamwork for everything to run smoothly. But the main thing is repetition. Infantryman realize that, and that is why they train and do the same drills time and time and time again.”

Brig. Gen. Cowdrey went on to explain to the Marines the benefits of repetition. “There are times when you will be hot, tired, and drained of energy,” he said. “Fatigue may trip you up, and the only way you will know how to react in combat is if you trained in that environment before. The exercises done in training, with rounds impacting nearby and your hearts pounding, only becomes instinctive through repetitive training.”



Sgt. Kevin W. Mayhew, Weapons Platoon commander, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, yells out instructions while displaying various techniques used to carry a rifle. Mayhew was one of the instructors during a live-fire training exercise held at the R-9 range aboard K-Bay, Aug. 2. Marines of the 1/3 were conducting training that will help to better prepare them for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.



Above — A Marine assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, loads his magazine before starting the live-fire course on the R-9 range during a training exercise held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 2. Marines from Bravo Company were participating in live-fire exercises to prepare them for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Left — Cpl. Kameron Veldman, weapons platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sends rounds downrange during a live-fire training exercise held aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, at the R-9 range, Aug. 2. This drill will help Marines become faster when firing upon enemy combatants.

2/3 endures Afghan heat wave

Sgt. Robert M. Storm
Combat Correspondent

JALALABAD, AFGHANISTAN — Marines must adapt and overcome, and for Marines and Sailors from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, adapting to the weather in Afghanistan is proving to be a challenge they are overcoming.

“My girlfriend in Phoenix tried to write me and complain about the heat. I just laughed and told her not to even go there,” said Jeremy T. Hooee, infantryman, from Zuni, N.M. “We have to drink a case of water every time we go out on patrol, just to keep from passing out. Your head pounds and your cammies are completely soaked, like you took a shower in them, but you just tough it out because that’s the job we do.”

Jalalabad is experiencing a heat wave in an area already notorious for its heat. With average temperatures exceeding 115 degrees Fahrenheit during July, Marines and Sailors suffer through each day. To make matters worse, when they go out on patrol, they must wear a flak vest with two heavy plates, Kevlar helmet and ammo pouches along with first-aid kits and other gear. This load weighs approximately 60

Marines



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Temperatures in Afghanistan have been averaging more than 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

pounds and must be worn throughout the day and night.

“When we go ‘outside the wire’ and have to put on all our gear, it’s like putting on a sweater in the middle of summer to go jogging,” said Lance Cpl. Garfield, infantryman, from Columbus, Ga. “The patrols aren’t physically challenging to your muscles, it’s just the heat that kills you.”

The daytime temperatures are so high that water must be left in the shade or it becomes too hot to drink. More than one Marine has complained about burning his tongue by drinking water left out in the sun. The water for the shower is solar heated. Marines and Sailors find that during the middle of the day, when many would like to shower for some relief from the heat, finding that relief is impossible because the water is so hot that it burns their skin.

“The showers can’t be used during the day; it’s crazy because you’ll actually be sweating in the shower it is so hot,” said Hooee.

Medical personnel for the battalion report very few heat casualties, and most of the cases

are from the beginning of the deployment. The outside temperature is monitored and rated by a system of colored flags. Every hour of every day is recorded so that battalion leaders can adjust workloads to prevent heat casualties.

“We haven’t had a day in Afghanistan that hasn’t been black flag, which is the highest level of daytime temperatures. The leadership

in this battalion, officers, staff noncommissioned officers, and noncommissioned officers, are doing a good job to make sure that the Marines and Sailors aren’t overworked and that they stay hydrated,” said Chief Petty Officer Joseph R. Burds, senior medical department representative, from El Paso, Texas. “We would know if they weren’t.”



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Members of Headquarters and Service Company 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, return from “outside the wire.” The Marines are completely soaked with sweat from the heat and wearing flak jackets and other protective gear that weighs approximately 60 pounds.

3rd Radio Marine pinned by brother in Iraq



Sgt. Juan Vara

Sgt. Teddy Straub pins rank insignia on Cpl. Robert E. Straub’s collar during a promotion ceremony Aug. 1. The brothers, from Ontario, Calif., are deployed to different locations in Iraq and don’t see each other often because of deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism and other operational commitments.

Sgt. Juan Vara
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — It’s no secret that the Marine Corps, because of the bond that exists between its members, is often referred to as a “Band of Brothers.” So in an organization with more than 175,000 members, it’s not rare to see real siblings proudly sharing the eagle, globe and anchor.

Sgt. Teddy Straub and Cpl. Robert E. Straub, natives of Ontario, Calif., are brothers deployed to different locations in Iraq who were reunited the morning of Aug. 1 when Teddy came to Camp Fallujah to pin new rank insignia on Robert’s collar during his promotion ceremony.

“This is awesome,” said Robert. “I waited a long time to pick up corporal and this made it that much better.”

Because of deployments in sup-

port of the Global War on Terrorism and other operational commitments, the two don’t see each other often.

“I think this is outstanding,” said Teddy. “Not only do I not see him for two years, but when I do see him I’m able to do something like this.”

As a CH-46E crew chief and non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the flightline section of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Teddy serves aboard Al Asad Air Base, home of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

Robert is a heavy equipment mechanic and motor transport mechanic and operator here assigned to the logistics department of 3rd Radio Battalion.

The brothers have been e-mailing each other for a while and recently started talking about getting together. A few days after finding out he was selected for promotion to corporal, Robert asked Teddy if he could

come to participate in the promotion ceremony.

Teddy talked with his superiors and was authorized by his commanding officer to make the trip. Sgt. Maj. Daniel D. Townsend, HMM-764 sergeant major, contacted 1st Sgt. Angelo P. Scott, 3rd Radio Battalion, Headquarters and Service Company first sergeant, and got the information Teddy needed to get to Camp Fallujah, find Robert’s unit and attend the promotion ceremony.

“Since we fly out here all the time, it was just a matter of jumping on a plane,” said Teddy. “Luckily, there was an incoming flight, and it wasn’t too full.”

After the ceremony the brothers played video games and watched movies to celebrate the promotion and reunion. Later that evening Teddy caught a flight back to Al Asad.

*See **BROTHERS**, A-7*



Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3 and Marine Forces Pacific work together to push a large log out of the center of a garden area at the Waipahu Cultural Center, Aug. 6. The Marines, along with members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1572, spent the morning beautifying the center and visiting with the other workers.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

CSSG-3, MarForPac Marines volunteer with veterans

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3 and Marine Forces Pacific, along with members of the Waipahu Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1572, spent three hours beautifying the landscape at the Waipahu Cultural Center, Aug. 6.

Once the labor was completed, the three groups had time to interact and share their personal experiences as service members as well as individuals.

“It was nice to get a chance to get Marines out here to help these veterans,” said Staff Sgt. Edward S. Garcia, operations chief, G-3, Marine Forces Pacific.

Garcia is also the senior vice commander of the VFW Post and the organizer of the Marines who volunteered their time in Waipahu.

A flood at the center nearly six-months ago caused a lot of damage to the gardens, fences and vegetation in the lower valley.

The work the Marines helped with consisted of clearing debris, planting native flora and chopping down trees to clear room for gardens.

After receiving a tour of the garden area, complete with examples of what trees were used for by native Hawaiians and visitors, the Marines and veterans turned to their morning of beautification.

“I was happy to get a chance to spend a morning with Marines from my section,” said Sgt. Santiago Kaites, platoon sergeant, Storage, Supply Company, CSSG-3. “We don’t get the chance to build camaraderie a lot, so this was great.”

Kaites, a Riverside, Calif. native, spent the morning planting Polynesian taro stalks with help from Lance Cpl. Andrea Vela, warehouseman, Storage, Supply Company, CSSG-3.

For years, members of the VFW group have been volunteering their time in their local area and said they are more than pleased to have help from a younger generation of military members.

“We are very happy to see the young Marines out here,” explained Ben Acohido, post commander. “Many of the members of our post are sick and elderly, so the help is really appreciated. Some of us come out and do what we can, but we get so much more done with help.”

Garcia has organized the volunteers twice, but said he intends on continuing to get them involved.

“We do volunteer work here once every two months,” said Garcia, the former company gunnery sergeant of Supply Company, CSSG. “I hope to keep getting larger numbers of willing volunteers. Even though it is on the weekend, I think it is really a worthwhile event.”

Once the physical work was complete, everyone gathered for a potluck-style lunch compete with cornbread, soup, and watermelon for dessert.

Some of the veterans

shared stories with the younger service members about the history of the post and the requirements of joining the VFW. Some of the Marines were eligible and didn’t know it.

“You need to meet certain requirements such as having received a Combat Action Ribbon, Campaign, or

See WAIPAHU, A-7

Gun control



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer L. Bailey

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michele Justice (left) and Petty Officer 3rd Class Marisa Marsh get instruction from Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin Matt on the proper firing technique of a 9 mm pistol. Small-arms qualifications are held for all personnel of Patrol Squadron 47, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, in preparation for deployment.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer L. Bailey

Petty Officer 2nd Class John Salomon loads 9 mm rounds during preparations for a small-arms, live-fire qualification at the K-Bay range.

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BUILD, From A-1

three, using bricks and mortar further reinforces the structure. Through this process, the specific facility evolves, depending upon its importance. Typically, a dining facility is the first to be improved, followed by command structures, and bath and toilet facility, with sleeping quarters usually being the last. Parts of the base may still be in phase one, while other parts are in phase three. After reinforcing building structures, other comforts are easier to add, like Internet lines and air conditioners. “The quality difference is huge, between phase one and two. When we build a wooden structure and then insulate it, it becomes much easier to keep that building’s temperature normal, and that’s a big deal when it’s one hundred and ten degrees out,” said Lee Zapf, craft foreman, Kellog, Brown, and Root, civilian contractor in charge of making most of the improvements for the base. The construction of the bases isn’t just for the comfort of the Marines who use them. The military employs local labor to help build and maintain the facility. Having laundry, sanitation, and other services supplied by neighboring civilians boosts the local economy. “I try to have as many local workers as I can,” said Arnold, a resident of Austin, Texas. “Every contract has seventy-five percent; it makes for good

community relations.” The goals of the camps are to have a steady state in which current operations are maintained without hav-

ing to build structures to support the mission. This strategy is less expensive and makes resources readily available for the Marines.

“It’s pretty decent here,” said Lance Cpl. Pedro F. Jimenez, administration clerk, from Delhi, Calif. “I mean, we have clean showers, clean

cots to sleep on, good chow, and there is even a little store right outside the gate where we can get soda, chips, tobacco and stuff.”

BROTHERS, From A-4

Teddy joined the Marine Corps in 1996 and served at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C., with Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 204 and HMM-264. In 2000, he deployed as part of the Aviation Combat Element of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). He has been with HMM-764 at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., since July 2002 and is currently on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Robert followed his brother’s footsteps in 2001. Since 2002 he’s been serving with 3rd Radio Battalion aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and has deployed once in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and is currently on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WAIPAHU, From A-5

Expeditionary Medal or the equivalent badge,” explained Garcia. “A lot of Marines don’t know enough about the benefits of being a member of the VFW. I hope that by bringing younger generations of military members out to interact with the post members, they will gain a better understanding of what the VFW is all about.” When all was said and done, the Marines conquered their final obstacle, a giant log, before heading back to base. “I had a really good time, and I would definitely do it again,” said Kaites. “I learned a lot, and the center looks beautiful again.” For more information about volunteering, contact Staff Sgt. Garcia at 477-8624.

